GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6860
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002
VIOLATION OF PROVISIONS OF WORKING JOURNALIST ACT
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether various associations of journalists have voiced their concern against the violation of provisions of Working Journalists Act by some management;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of a practice where journalists aew forced to accept low salaries; and

(c) the steps proposed to meet the long-pending grievances of the `fourth Estate`?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (c): Manisana Wage Boards setup under the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 submitted their recommendations on 25.7.2000 which were notified by the Government vide Orders dated 5.12.2000 and 15.12.2000 for implementation by all States/UTs. Since then, the Government have received a number of representations from various newspaper unions/associations against non-implementation/partial implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Boards.

As per the Act, responsibility of the implementation of the Wage Board Award and various other provisions of the Act lies with the respective State Governments. Therefore, the Government have time and again impressed upon all States totake immediate steps, in particular to setup tri-partite implementation Committee/Special Cells to oversee full and effective implementation of the recomendations of the Award. The Ministry of Labour is also closely monitoring the progress of implementation of the Award.